

PUBLIC WORKS/SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The Public Works/Safety Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, in Conference Room No. 1 at the City Office Building.

Present:	Audrey Nelsen Vice Chair
	Steve Ahmann Member
	Andrew PlowmanMember
	Tim Johnson Alternate Member

Others present: Public Works Director Sean Christensen; Chief of Police Jim Felt; Fire Chief Frank Hanson; Shelby Lindrud "West Central Tribune"

Item No. 1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Nelsen at 4:46 p.m.

Item No. 2 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Item No. 3 Police and Fire Updates (For Information Only)

Chief Felt noted the jail census for September 13, 2016 was 121; 29 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 72 inmates from Kandiyohi County and 21 inmates from other counties. The calls for service since August 30, 2016 totaled 830 and are 5 days ahead of this date last year. The majority of calls for the last two weeks were for traffic stops, followed by public assists and crashes.

Council Member Ahmann asked Chief Felt if there is anything that could be done to decrease police calls. Chief Felt said the department is focusing on traffic stops and prevention portal to hopefully reduce crashes. The department is also short three police officers at this time.

Chief Hanson noted total Fire Department total calls for service in the previous weeks totaled 9. The total calls for service this year is 232. The dispatch to en route time is currently 6 minutes 50 seconds.

Council Member Ahmann requested an update on the flood relief. Chief Hanson said they received 41 calls requesting assistance due to flood damage. Majority of the calls were turned over to non-profit groups to assist with purchasing of new water heaters, furnaces, etc. Other calls requested assistance with removing furniture, appliances, and garbage from the homes. Chief Hanson also noted the Emergency Management Team is meeting weekly to set action plans/checklists for possible future natural disasters.

Council Member Ahmann also requested that Chief Felt and Sean Christensen look at the one way street on Benson Avenue near Frieda's Café to see if they should lower the one way signs to avoid traffic from going in the wrong direction.

Item No. 4 Minnesota Fire Code (Motion)

Chief Hanson informed the Committee on May 2, 2016 the 2012 International Fire Code, titled as the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code was adopted by the State of Minnesota and went into effect May 30, 2016. Staff is requesting that the City adopt the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code. Since the effective date of May 30th staff has been referring to the 2015 MN State Fire Code when reviewing commercial projects, there should be no issues with adopting.

A motion was made by Council Member Plowman, seconded by Council Member Ahmann to set a public hearing for October 3, 2016 to adopt the 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code and revise the Willmar City Ordinance Chapter 6, Article III, and Division 2. The motion carried.

Item No. 5 6th Street East Pedestrian Bridge (For Information Only)

Staff has received some concerns over the 6th Street pedestrian bridge crossing over the railroad. Presented to the Committee was the summary page of the 2015 MnDOT bridge inspection report which indicates the superstructure and substructure are in fair condition while the deck is in poor condition and unsound paint is at 90%. The Public Works Department has painted and performed minimal maintenance as needed over the years. The Committee discussed the need for the 6th Street pedestrian bridge with the upcoming Robbin Island Improvements. The Committee directed staff to get a quote from a structural engineer to evaluate and make the necessary repairs to the bridge. Staff was also asked to gather an accurate count for pedestrian use of the bridge.

Item No. 6 Sex Offender Housing (For Information Only)

Vice Chair Nelsen received a call from Chair Christianson indicating Attorney Tom Anderson, who was to speak on this matter, was not able to attend the meeting. The Committee directed staff to contact Attorney Tom Anderson to find out the details of this agenda item.

Item No. 7 Accept Project and Authorize Final Payment 1501-A (Resolution)

Staff brought forth, for approval, project 1501-A which was the reconstruction of Carolina Avenue SW, Swansson Green Field parking lot, 21st Street SW, Public Works lots, and City Hall alley. The final pay request is hereby submitted for consideration and staff is recommending final payment be made.

A motion was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Johnson to accept project and authorize final payment to 1501-A. The motion carried.

Non-Agenda Items

Council Member Ahmann brought before the Committee his concern with the need for mosquito spraying. Staff informed the Committee the City plans to spray for mosquitos September 19th and 20th. The Public Works staff will also be spraying for Mosquitoes in the Park which is to be held on Friday, September 16th. This will be the sixth time the City has sprayed the entire City for mosquitos. Cost for chemical and labor is estimated to be \$5,000 for each full city spray.

Council Member Ahmann expressed his concerns with the need for storm water retention ponds. Staff informed the Committee there are projects in the 2017 proposed CIP that may provide relief for the Baker field pond area. Limited ditch cleanout is also proposed in the 2017 budget. Council Member Nelsen questioned how the Grass Lake project will affect the City. Staff suggested inviting Loren Engelby to a future meeting for an update on the Grass Lake project. Council Member Ahmann also brought up the Koosman Addition and how to prioritize storm water projects in that area. Staff informed the Committee that Koosman's Addition includes a private pond and staff has worked with Koosman to minimize his private development exposure.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02p.m. by Vice Chair Nelsen.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean E. Christensen, P.E.
Public Works Director